

Spring 1-15-2006

ENG 2009-003: Literature and Human Values: Faith, Survival, Progress

Dagni Bredeesen
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2006



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

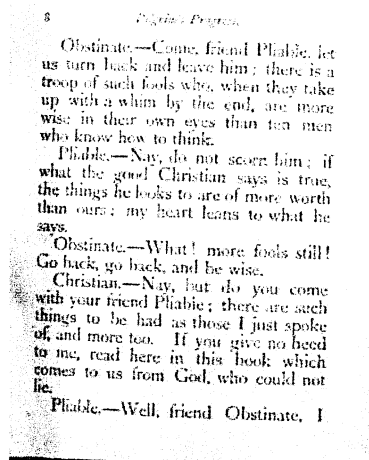
Recommended Citation

Bredeesen, Dagni, "ENG 2009-003: Literature and Human Values: Faith, Survival, Progress" (2006). *Spring 2006*. 64.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2006/64

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2006 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2006 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

English 2009-003
 "Literature and Human Values: Faith, Survival, Progress"
 Spring 2006/ Coleman Hall 3150
 Class Meeting: 3-4.15pm, M/W

Dr. Dagni Bredeesen
 Office Hours: Monday/Wednesdays 1.00-2.00pm or by appointment
 Office: Coleman Hall 3321
 Email: dabredesen@eiu.edu Phone: 217-581-6294



Course Overview: In this general education humanities course, we will be reading literature—both fiction and non-fiction—that represents “life-as-journey.” As characters move towards their final destination—often some kind of home—they endure various tests. Thus, in addition to focusing on how these stories of “faith, survival, and progress” are told, we will also be studying what sustains an individual through these trials.

One objective of this course is to develop further a critical appreciation of and a confidence in reading and discussing literature and the ways literature speaks of and to the human condition. Furthermore, in this course, you will have many opportunities for extending and enhancing skills in reading, writing, and speaking in general, in ways that will benefit you throughout your University career, and, indeed, your life.

Please note that this class is DISCUSSION-DRIVEN. This means that there is an expectation that each student will be fully prepared for each meeting having read and thought about the text assigned for the day and able to initiate or contribute to discussion with relevant and meaningful questions or comments that indicate a serious effort to grapple with the readings and the questions that frame this course.

Texts: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*
 Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*,
 John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*,
 Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, a slave*.
 Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*
 Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow*.
 Course Packet
 Please note: You will also need a College Level Dictionary to succeed in this course.

Course Assignments: To achieve the objectives described above students will need to keep up with the rigorous reading schedule and actively participate in the class discussion. The following assignments will foster the active engagement necessary to make this a productive and exciting learning experience.

I. Exams and Quizzes:

*There will be a mid-term (100 points) and a final examination (200 points). I reserve the right to give pop quizzes as warranted if I sense students are not keeping up with their readings.

II. Papers:

*Two essays based on the readings (200 points each)

III. Extending Your Map: (50 points each):

The word “university” carries with it the idea that part of your education includes an exploration of the universe, that is, the world around you. This course “Literature and Human Values” offers you the opportunity to gain credit for participating in activities in ways that stretch you intellectually, politically, personally. For this assignment you are encouraged to go to an event or performance, a lecture, a concert that in some way that extends you beyond what you have previously experienced. Thus for example, most of you have been to movies or concerts but maybe you have never watched an “art film” or listened to live classical music or attended a ballet. **Extending your map means doing something that takes you beyond the range of what you would ordinarily do. Each one of your personal field trips needs to be different.** Here are some ideas 1) go to an art museum and look at an exhibit then focus on one particular painting for 15 minutes and do some research on the artist for the write-up. 2) go to an ethnic restaurant that serves food other than Mexican, Chinese, Italian, or any other food you are familiar with. Pay attention to the ambience, décor, what you order, how it tastes, etc. 3) do something different; for example give blood, volunteer in the community **NOT** because your fraternity or sorority has mandated that you do it but for its own sake. 4) attend a lecture/presentation in a field that is different from the one you are studying in. 5) other—clear with me.

The experience itself is part one of this assignment. Part two is writing it up in a thoughtful, well-crafted way that clearly describes the experience itself and explains in what ways this experience has taken you beyond your usual realm of experience, and finally reflects on this experience in relation to something we have discussed in class. This paper should be type written, carefully proofread and its length should run 2 full pages or more. You will write three of these papers.

IV. Miscellaneous assignments, worksheets etc. designed to promote careful reading and intelligent discussion. (100 points).

V. Film Review based on one of the movies listed at the end of the syllabus. (50 points)

Attendance Policy: You may miss 2 classes no questions asked, no excuses needed. After 2 classes your grade will drop one level. For example, if you were earning a B and you miss a third class, your grade would drop to C; if you miss a fourth class, your grade would drop to a D. If you miss 5 or more classes you will receive a failing grade for this class. This means you will probably not want to squander your allowable absences but save them for when you need them.

Course Schedule:

Please note this schedule is provisional and subject to change. Also, students should read assigned text(s) prior to the class in which the text(s) will be discussed.

Week One:

1/09 Introduction to Class/ Biblical Swoosh
Everyman, an introduction to **ALLEGORY**

HMWK: Read scholarly introduction to *Pilgrim's Progress*, and the front matter (Chronology, title page, Author's apology and up to page 22). Pick up course packet at Copy Express in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union Building, second floor.

Please be prepared to identify a section of *PP* that you think is interestingly allegorically and what you think is being allegorically represented.

Start filling out study guide and be prepared to discuss where Christian goes, whom he meets, and the significance of these places and encounters.

1/11 Historical Swoosh and Discuss *Pilgrim's Progress* up to and including page 22 (see HMWK above)
HMWK: Read pages 23-78, be prepared to discuss, and continue filling out study guide.

Week Two:

1/16 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/ No Classes**

1/18 Discuss assigned reading, up to and including page 78.
HMWK: pages 79-104,

Week Three: DUE: EXTENDING YOUR MAP #1

1/23 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Finish reading *Pilgrim's Progress* and finish filling out worksheet, which will be turned in on Wednesday. ***Please bring Frederick Douglass's Narrative to class.**

1/25 Discuss conclusion of *Pilgrim's Progress*, turn in worksheet.
Intro: Frederick Douglass
HMWK: Read *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* Chapters 1-5
Start filling out worksheet.

Week Four:

1/30 Discuss *Frederick Douglass* chapters 1-5,
Introduction to the first paper: Relating the Part to the Whole.
HMWK: Read Chapters 6-10 and fill out worksheet.

2/01 Discuss *Narrative* and WRITING WORKSHOP
HMWK: First Paper due Monday, 9/19
Read in the course packet "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

Week Five:

2/06

First Essay Due

Discuss "What to the Slave..."

HMWK: read *Jane Eyre*: Author's Preface and chapters I-IV

2/08

Intro to the Index assignment and Second Essay

HMWK: *Jane Eyre* chapters V-X

Week Six:

2/13

Discuss assigned readings HMWK: XI-XV

2/15

Discuss assigned readings HMWK: *Jane Eyre* chapters XVI-XXV

Week Seven: DUE: EXTENDING YOUR MAP #2

2/20

Discuss assigned readings HMWK *Jane Eyre* chapters XXVI-XXX

2/22

Discuss assigned readings HMWK Finish reading *Jane Eyre*

Hand out Midterm Prep sheet.

Week Eight:

2/27

Jane Eyre Conclusion

Index and Second Essay Due

3/01

Midterm

Introduce and assign to view *Black Robe*

PLEASE WATCH ASSIGNED FILM *Black Robe* for Monday, March 6th
**Special Showing of *Black Robe* Thursday Night March 2nd in Coleman Hall
room 3150 or View *Black Robe* on reserve in the library. Answer study
questions due Monday, March 6th.**

Bring *The Sparrow* to class on Monday.

Week Nine:

3/06

Black Robe Film analysis due

Discuss film and introduce *The Sparrow*

HMWK: *The Sparrow* chapters 2-11/ Work on Study Sheets

3/08

Discuss readings

HMWK: Finish reading *The Sparrow*

SPRING BREAK: PLEASE FINISH READING *THE SPARROW* AND FILL OUT STUDY SHEET

Week Ten:

3/20

Discuss *The Sparrow*

3/21

Discuss *The Sparrow*'s conclusion. Introduce *Purple Hibiscus*

HMWK: Read *Purple Hibiscus* through p109

Week Eleven: FILM REVIEW DUE

3/27

Discuss assigned reading.

HMWK: Read *Purple Hibiscus* through p161

3/29 Discuss assigned reading
Read *Purple Hibiscus* through p 253

Week Twelve: FINAL REVISIONS OF PAPERS ONE AND TWO DUE

4/03 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Finish reading *Purple Hibiscus* and bring *Life of Pi* to class
4/05 Wrap-up discussion of *Purple Hibiscus* and introduce *Life of Pi*
HMWK: Read *Life of Pi* Part ONE

Week Thirteen:

4/10 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Read *Life of Pi* chapters 37-58

4/12 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Read *Life of Pi* chapters 59-94

Week Fourteen: EXTENDING YOUR MAP #3 DUE

4/17 Discuss assigned readings
HMWK: Read *Life of Pi* PART THREE (that is, finish reading the book).

4/19 Discuss the two interpretations of events: Which one should we believe?

Week Fifteen:

4/24 Preparation Final Exam Sheet Distributed
4/26 Debate/ ONE PAGE STATEMENT (using textual support) OF YOUR
POSITION DUE
Class Wrap Up

Final Exam: Monday, May 1, 2006 2:45-4:45 pm